SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

5th Year

No 97

May 10 1971

ADDRESS:

HT 1217 B-SVN

C/O

DAZIMINA HANOI

19, Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi, DRVN

and all RSVN Embassies, Information Bureaux in foreign countries

2 SEP 16 Copy 1971

editorial

The NFL overall solution shining with life and vigour

TWO years ago, in the same first days of May, the NFL announced its 10-point overall solution in view of a peaceful settlement of the South Viet Nam problem. People of common sense regard it as a logical and reasonable basis for a correct political solution—a lever that would make the Paris Conference on Viet Nam move forward.

For two years now, the just cause of the NFL's proposal keeps shining and enjoying enthusiastic acclaim at home and stronger support abroad. In June 1969, after its founding, the RSVN PRG adopted it as position of its delegation to the Conference table.

On September 17, 1970, it again made public an 8-point elaboration on the said solution. Nobody denies its tremendous vitality. It is a vivid reflection of facts, of the genuine desire and feelings of the South Vietnamese who find in it their logical and imperative claims and also the only correct way to settle the current issues of South Viet Nam.

THE fact is that the US imperialists are the aggressors responsible for the hideous slaughter in Viet Nam and the other Indochinese countries. Under a "anti-communist" pretext, they have poked their nose into Viet Nam, introduced weapons and military personnel to unleash a unilateral then special war in South Viet Nam, and with a massive dispatch of half a million US expeditionary troops, waged a localized war against the population there. They have grossly trampled under foot Viet Nam's independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, and the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination.

That is why the settlement of the South Viet Nam problem necessitates the settlement of two key issues, namely:

First: *termination by the US of its war of aggression and withdrawal from South Viet Nam of all its own troops and those of its satellites;*

Second: *renunciation by the US of the Thieu-Ky-Khiem trio and freedom of the South Vietnamese to decide upon their internal affairs through free general elections to be held eventually by a provisional coalition government.*

These constitute the basic contents of the 10-point overall solution and its elaboration in 8 points. They are the key to peace, the conditions ensuring the respect for the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights and self-determination. That is why the 10-point overall solution has been highly valued as reasonable claims, the most logical way to settle the South Viet Nam problem. Through a two-year test of time, that solution has made clearer and clearer the correct stand as well as the goodwill and serious attitude of the NFL and the RSVN PRG. During this period, the latter have been trying their best to clarify their position and seeking every means to push up the Paris Conference on Viet Nam to a fair solution of the South Viet Nam problem. Over 110 sessions of the Conference have been held in the Kléber Ave. "Majectic" Meeting Hall, yet the American side keeps rehashing the same jarring tunes. For over two years now, rhetorical and semantical jugglery has been used to justify the US stubborn aggressive position, to persist in its claim for mutual troop withdrawal, (thus equating the aggressors with those who resist aggression) to demand conditions for the total pullout of American GIs, and to impose the rule of the US agents Thieu-Ky-Khiem upon the South Vietnamese.

IN the face of bitter setbacks and increasing US casualties, and under popular pressure in the USA and the world for an end to the war, the Nixon administration has been forced to phase out US soldiery which it uses to hustle its "goodwill for peace" and "sincerity in negotiations"! Actually, since his entering office, Nixon has escalated the war in South Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos alike. By "Vietnamizing" it, he strives hard to carry on the conflict, frantically strengthen the Saigon army and administration while perpetrating innumerable crimes in furtherance of the

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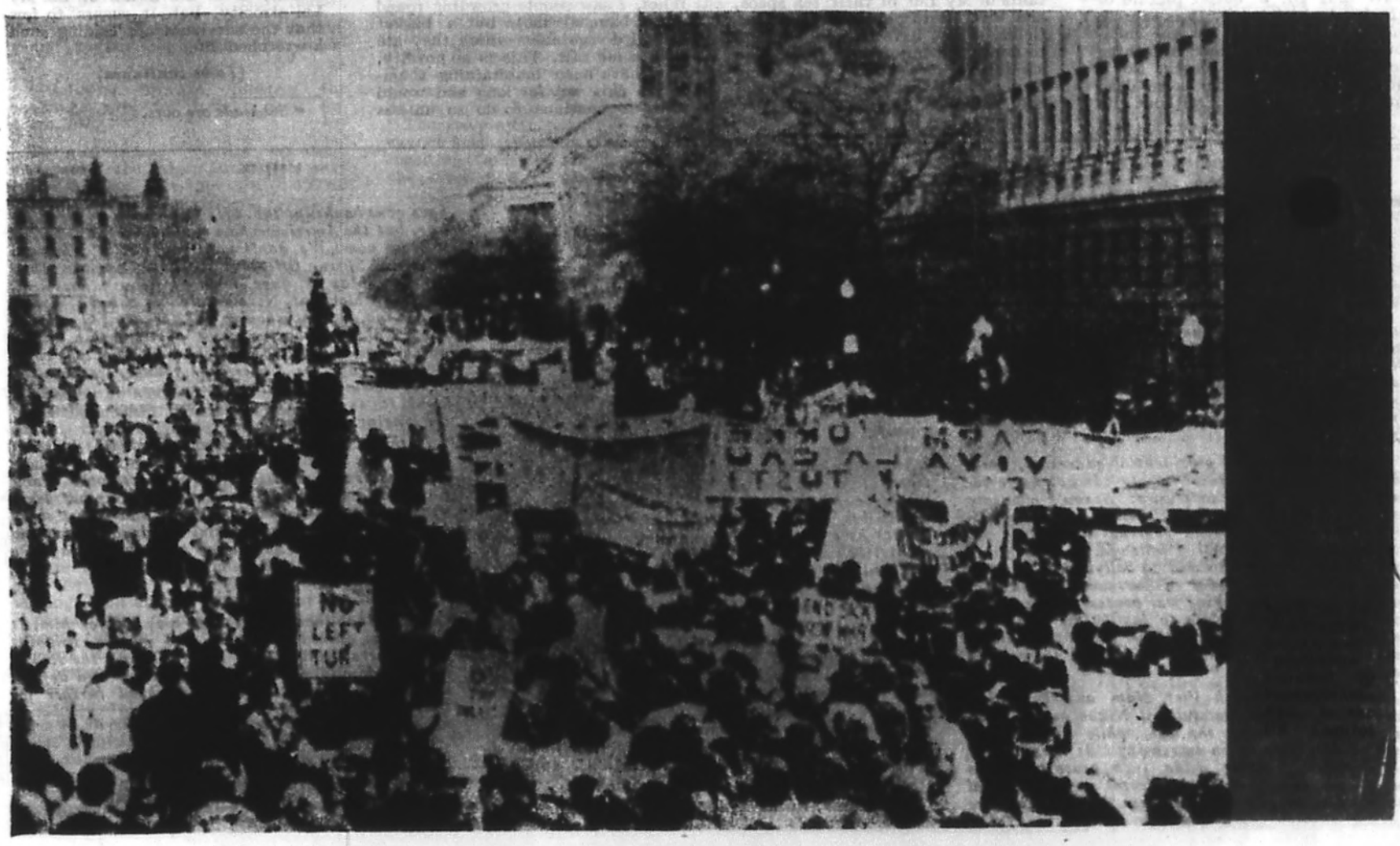


Following are large excerpts from a serial in three instalments of the Saigon daily Tin Sang. *The author is a member of the city's students' Central Viet Nam Population Relief Team. He has visited Son My and the neighbouring areas.* – Ed.

from My Lai to Ba Lang An

SON MY TODAY *

After the hair-raising horrors of 1968, our fellow countrymen at My Lai have been living in poverty, hunger and on the verge of death. It was not only in 1968 that mass murders occurred; people had been killed for long, as they were in the fields transplanting seedlings, on their fishing boats, or in their underground shelters. The tragic massacre of 570 persons was just one of a medium scale experienced by the population here. Before 1964 there were 12,000 inhabitants as against about 3,500 now. That is the census made by the Saigon students' and pupils team in house-to-house visits.

Since the notorious wholesale killing was brought to light, public attention has been focussed on My Lai. It is one of the four hamlets of Son My village, Son Tinh district, Quang Ngai province. Not to mention families entirely mown down, the surviving ones have been bereaved of two persons at least and eleven at most. They are often intimidated if they venture to denounce killings by American and South Korean soldiers.

The indifferent and frightened behaviour of the population here toward investigators has helped us better see the truth. Having come to know who we – the collective of Saigon students and pupils – were, they were no longer reticent. We have thus got a better picture of the local people's life. It is safe to say that at present, for the inhabitants of Son My, there is nothing left but hatred and death. Not a single family is without some dead or injured members, without its property taken away or damaged after a sweep to herd the population into resettlement hamlets.

Son My now is no longer what it used to be. After frightful B. 52 bombings, shellings from Quang Ngai and from the sea by warships, and "mop-ups" with M.48s and M.113s that reduced houses to ashes and levelled paddies and orchards, they pointed M.116s at people holding babies in their arms and forced them into Chinooks. Those who were taken away left behind wounded relatives in the throes of suffering, and these might a few moments later fall to machinegun bullets or rockets... They were brought to concentration places where they had to live on a modicum of canned food and grilled rice.

They were moved from one place to another for several times, they were finally resettled in two areas: at My Lai hamlet and My Khe, Tu Cung and Co Luy hamlets. Located on the way from Quang Ngai to the Ba Lang An peninsula, the said areas are a little over 10 km from the provincial capital. Concentrating so many people in so small an area is to go on starving them to death instead of cutting them down with bullets. They have the right to live only within barbed-wire fences; they are not allowed to till their land and go fishing off shore, which had been their trades for many years. They (the Americans) have brought warships to rob the inhabitants of My Lai of their sea space, and aircraft to plunder their ricefields. They have brought bullets to deprive them of their lives. The administration's policy of penning up the population in hamlets, allegedly intended to control them, aims actually at subjecting them to a slow death.

People throughout the towns and cities, students and pupils all over the South have heard of rice shortage in Central Viet Nam. Worse than that, one may say that certain regions have no rice at all. That is the case of My Lai. Trenches serve as dwellings, vegetables and tubers are used as food. People live in what can hardly be called houses, simply under roofs over underground shelters. No beds, no mats, just some straw on which the whole family lies at night. People here in the South have heard of the poverty of their countrymen in Central Viet Nam, but My Lai is much more destitute than they can imagine...

The inhabitants of Son My are subsisting on cassava and young leaves of sweet potato and are bringing up their children with the hope that they will not suffer as they are themselves. Many old-agers asked us when the Americans would pack up, when peace would be restored. To them the immediate necessity seemed to be the pullout of the US. Confiding to us, old men recollected collective burials and the burying of freshly killed victims by survivors... We also listened to old women relating the death of their sons, their eyes ablaze with hatred.

My Lai people have suffered much at the hands of the Americans and South Koreans, and continue to die a slow death owing to population concentrations. The administration has purposely abandoned them.

In my fund-raising drive, I saw many officials spend as many as ten thousand piastres on a banquet, and others almost eight hundred on a "Coca" bottle. As I distributed relief, I saw people crowding round not a banquet table but a basket of boiled vegetables which they ate with some salt. This is no novelty, they have been maintaining themselves this way for long and would have to continue to do so unlesss the administration lets them go back to their villages and their homes, unless it returns them to their paddies and orchards and the open sea.

I saw children, whose fathers and mothers had been victims of the heinous slaughter, picking up vegetables and cassava tubers to eat. While those who feed the war send their sons and daughters to French-run schools, or to France and the United States where they live in clover, such is the lot of our children at My Lai – no food, no clothing and, of course, no school. Several of the latter burst into tears when asked about their parents: the father of one of them had died in a netting trip, the mother of another had been killed one morning as she walked to her field; the eyes of a boy burned with hatred as he recounted how foreign soldiers massacred both his father and mother. Children never forget such abominable crimes.

To the children of My Lai the past is associated with horror, the present means food and clothing shortage, and the future promises nothing but enmity and hatred...

After hundreds of our countrymen had fallen at My Lai at the gunpoints of blood-drunk killers, in Saigon they regarded this as an ordinary mistake, and in the eyes of the authorities it was but a routine. And now when the inhabitants of My Lai are lacking food and clothes, in Saigon they speak of democracy and freedom. The former do not want to hear of freedom when bombs and bullets are rained on their heads, they do not want to hear of democracy when they have to grapple with cold and hunger everyday.

Many of us are aware of the My Lai atrocity, but it occurs to few that the survivors are leading such a wretched life.

(To be continued)

* *Subheads are ours.*

The NFL overall solution...

(continued from page 1)

so-called "accelerated" and "special pacification" policy. To salvage his "Vietnamization" of the war, Nixon engineered the coup d'etat in Cambodia, conducted the aggressive campaigns there and in Laos, thus widening the war to the whole of Indochina, playing off the Indochinese against the Indochinese.

Close succession of presidential addresses, speeches and press conferences was to conceal war escalation and sell the same ware: Nixon's obdurate aggression and bellicosity (labelled "Vietnamization"), and the doctrine bearing his name. His recent address on April 7 followed by two press conferences on April 16 and 29 ballyhooed an additional troops withdrawal in pursuance of his vocal warfare. While challenging war protesters, he turned to account the POW issue to justify his persistent refusal to set a time-limit for the total pulling back of US troops from Indochina and for an end to the killings.

How can the South Viet Nam and Indochina problems be settled peacefully if Nixon keeps intensifying and widening the war, while war expenditure and crimes go on increasing? As long as the US continues putting aside such peace proposals as ensure the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights, as long as these sacred rights are trodden upon, the Paris Conference on Viet Nam cannot progress.

NOTHING can plead for Nixon's position of a die-hard and warlike aggressor. All his efforts aim at prolonging and extending the war, gaining a position of strength, so that if there were any negotiated settlement, it should be on the US own colonialist terms. These are the calculations of Nixon and Co. They are mistaken. They might be crafty war plan-makers but have shown themselves bad strategists. Their strategies and tactics have brought them nothing but disenchantments. Nixon's frenzied efforts admittedly culminated in the "Lam Son 719" operation. No surprise that Saigon hard-core units laboriously set up by Nixon within the framework of his "Vietnamization" program, mobile heliborne and armour tactics as well as the formula "puppet infantry plus US support" upon which the US President pins much hope, were decisively put to an acid test on Highway 9. Each of them ended in a flop. Ban Dong became the graveyard of thousands of Saigon mercenaries together with US most up-to-date tactics. Ban Dong illustrated a typical joint reverse of "Vietnamization" and the Nixon doctrine.

Meanwhile, in the USA, Nixon's psychowar tricks have gone bankrupt too. He tries hard to plead for war, but the Americans have unanimously answered: "Peace now! We don't want your war!" The 1971 anti-war Spring Offensive climaxing in the April 24 and May 5 huge demonstrations has dealt crippling blows at Nixon's double policy: war in Indochina and psychowar in the United States. Viet Nam veterans' massive participation was a novel significant factor which spelled out the consciousness of the American younger generation to the insanity of serving as instruments for aggression. It is also clear that war-weary Americans are longing for peace.

Nothing testifies to Nixon's goodwill. Instead, each of his deeds shows his sticking to a bellicose and aggressive position. It obstructs the Paris Conference on Viet Nam and the road leading to peace. It is the profound and direct cause of economic recession, social chaos and internal dissent in the USA. Nixon is groping his way in a tunnel without an end in view.

NOT that there has been no way out for him. It was opened two years ago in the 10-point overall solution of the NFL and the RSVN PRG for him to get out of humiliation and defeat. But Nixon deliberately shuns to head further for the blind alley of war.

SOUTH VIET NAM

SEVEN ECONOMIC MEASURES
to serve the war efforts

TO implement "Vietnamization," the US imperialists have been resorting to such tricks as "changing the complexion of the corpses" and curtailing the war expenditure. One of the dollar-saving measures has been Washington-instigated attempts to fleece the people. For two years now, the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique has imposed many taxes such as the "capita" tax, the "austerity" tax, launched the "taxation control" campaign, and created the "limited exchange parity rate." As all this has not been enough to offset the big deficit of the war budget, in March 1971 the Saigon rulers took "seven new economic measures":

— raising the price of US imported rice to the level of that of local rice;

— boost the prices of wheat flour, sugar and cement from 30 to 50 per cent;

— higher interests of treasury bonds;

— cutting the subsidies to "autonomous" organs and "state"-run societes.

— refixing to 275 piastres the exchange rate for freight cost, imports, etc.

To gild these "seven economic measures," the Saigon authorities have coolly asserted that they are to uphold the interests of the farmers, to encourage local production and to develop Saigon's "self-sufficent" and "sovereign" economy and so on and so forth. It is simply a brazen piece of irony to say that higher price of American rice was to impel our farmers' "production": Everyone knows that in their war of aggression, the US imperialists have made use of a huge quantity of bombs, shells and toxic chemicals so far unknown in the history of war against our people, domestic animals, and crops, making the soil sterile and production drop, so that from a country exporting millions of tons of rice per year formerly, South Viet Nam has now to import from 0.7 to 0.8 million tons a year. In these conditions, how can the dearer American rice promote production? At a moment when the Saigon piastre is facing a serious devaluation and the people's purchasing power is sagging, even a price hike of local rice is not a factor to push up production because the fruits of the labour of the farmers is never fairly remunerated. Furthermore, the US war of aggression is the root and direct cause of the ruin of agricultural production. That is why the rise in the price of American rice is first aimed at encouraging more imports to replenish the war stock and then at robbing the non-farmers more of their money to feed the war. This extortion of the Saigon rulers through the taxation of imported rice to finance Vietnamization will finally ruin the people.

The same is true concerning imported sugar. The Saigon ruling clique also has increased the price of many other commodities: American rice 30%, wheat flour 20%, sugar 66 - 100%, petrol 24 - 26%. As these are all staple goods, it is clear that the people have to contribute more of their money to the prolongation of the war.

The suppression of financial aid to "autonomous" organs and "state"-run companies allegedly to reduce their reliance on the government's assistance is tantamount to cutting off all subsidies to the production of local commodities. This move will lead to the shrinking of local production and give a fillip to the import of foreign goods and in no way help the self-sufficiency and sovereignty policy ballyhooed by the Saigon quislings, on the contrary it will worsen South Viet Nam's economical then political dependence on the US, and all this will effectively serve US neo-colonialism.

The lift of the interest rate of treasury bonds has been said by the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique to lure greater bank deposits, reduce inflation and devaluation and allow banking enterprises to issue banknotes at alluring interests rate with this measure, the Saigon administration hopes to be able to attract the savings of the population and use them to offset the deficit of the war budget.

The US scheme to prosecute its aggressive war with the Vietnamese people's money, will certainly meet with a strong opposition on the part of the propertied section of the townspeople.

Of the income from the application these "seven economic measures," the Saigon rulers promise to earmark 6 billion piastres for allowance to families of armymen and public servants. This is also to entice the latter into executing the traitors' policy. But the Saigon press has bluntly remarked: "The 100-piastre per capita allowance cannot keep pace with the price hike resulting from the implementation of the seven new economic measures."

This will be to "lose on the swings what you make on the roundabouts," because the wages do not increase in intrinsic value and consequently bad will be made worse for army and functionaries.

AWARE of this, all sections of the town people, from the poor labourers to workers, civil servants, soldiers and up to the middle class have raised their voices in protest. The street demonstration of thousands of Hue people involving war invalids, war widows, clergymen, were eloquent protests against these economic measures. Everywhere, from Quang Tri, Hue, Thua Thien to Saigon, Can Tho, Rach Gia, they have been condemned as a move to impoverish and fleece the people, they will do no good to the people as they cannot prevent inflation but send the prices sky high. In their petitions, press statements, teach-ins or demonstrations, the workers, toiling people, small traders, teachers, students, etc., have angrily urged that the Saigon rulers give up such predatory methods.

Saigon opinion has pointed to the dependency of these economic policies on the US with such tongue-in-cheek arguments as: "Colonialism teaches us that when money is needed, the administration raises taxes, when taxes can no more be boosted, food prices are marked up and this hits the inhabitants as they can evade taxes but not foods."

NIEN NGUYEN

Buddhist believers praying for peace and better living conditions

IN THE CITIES

THE last days of April, witnessed the ebullient struggle of the Saigon working people for better living conditions, the abolition of taxes on wages and against the "seven economic measures," arbritrary firings of workers and American MP's indecencies on female employees.

The strike waged by 1,500 taxi drivers has impeded Saigon traffic. The walking-out of 80,000 workers in 18 Saigon Trade-Unions and a projected strike of the USAID workers have landed the US-puppets in a fix.

— Meanwhile, the Saigon Premier was accused by student Phan Tu Cong of having offered to pay him 200,000 piastres for an article against the student organization. That base bargaining has shocked student circles and public opinion. The drive for campus autonomy and the cessation of reprisals on students keeps mounting.

— On April 16, on his superiors' order, a puppet NCO shot dead Tran Dinh Khang, a student in Phu Tho Polytechnical Center. That killing triggered off a vehement protest from thousands of students.

— A big rally was held on May 2 by 1,000 students and representatives of religious, political and social bodies, including Saigon "deputies" to mark the 4th anniversary of girl student Nhat Chi Mai's self-immolation by fire.

The gathering urged that the US war be ended.

— War invalids took to the streets of Saigon and Nha Trang in protest against meagre allowance while cost of living keeps rising sky high. They condemned the Saigon administration's pulling down their houses and murdering a war invalid Nguyen Huu Trac. The demonstrators wore medals while asking for alms, rice and housing.

The Saigon papers Dien Tin *(Telegraph),* Tin Dien *(Distpatch) and* Hoa Binh *(Peace) were seized. The measure was to hush up news on the failure of "Vietnamization" and drastic presidential electoral laws. Private news agency* Tin Mien Nam *(South Viet Nam News) was sacked by Saigon authorities.*

The American journalist Don Luce, author of articles on "tiger cages" was summoned to leave Saigon.

All this proves that the US-paid Saigon administration is bent on muzzling the press.

The Saigon Committee for a Better Penitential Regime has energetically denounced the savage treatment of prisoners by the US and its Saigon flunkeys who keep boasting of the amelioration of the detainees' conditions.

The Committee brought to light the maintaining of inhumane detention and repression seen only in medieval and hitlerite times, and underlined the Nixon administration's full responsibility for providing its Saigon placemen with American "butcher-advisers," dollars and torture apparatuses. The public in Viet Nam was not surprised at Congressman W. Anderson's disclosure that Nixon had earmarked 400,000 dollars for the building of 288 additional "tiger cages" at Poulo Condor penitentiary island.

Grand Meeting Marks INDOCHINESE PEOPLES' SUMMIT CONFERENCE Anniversary

A grand meeting was held in the liberated areas of South Viet Nam on April 25 by the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam to commemorate the first anniversary of the Summit Conference of Indochinese Peoples.

On the Presidium of the rally were:

– Huynh Tan Phat, Vice-Chairman of the Presidium and Secretary-General of the NFL Central Committee, and President of the PRG of the RSVN;

– Dr. Phung Van Cung, Vice-Chairman of the Presidium of the NFL Central Committee, and Vice-President of the PRG of the RSVN;

– Superior Thich Thien Hao, Presidium member of the NFL Central Committee, and President of the South Viet Nam Buddhists' Association;

– Nguyen Huu The, Presidium member of the NFL Central Committee, and President of the South Viet Nam Liberation Peasants' Association;

– Professor Nguyen Van Kiet, Executive member of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, Vice-President of the PRG;

– Professor Ton That Duong Ky, Secretary-General of the ANDPF Central Committee.

Representatives of different religions, nationalities, political parties and organizations affiliated to the NFL, Chinese residents, patriotic armymen and people in the liberated area were also attending.

In his opening speech, President Huynh Tan Phat said: "Just one year ago, on the initiative of Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, the Summit Conference of Indochinese Peoples was convened and achieved brilliant success, marking an important turn in the history against aggression and for national defence of the three nations. In the light of the Conference's joint communiqué, the Vietnamese, Cambodian and Lao brother peoples have been constantly strengthening their militant solidarity against the common enemy—the US imperialists and their stooges—and have been making tremendous gains in all fields.

After exposing the extremely obdurate, bellicose and machiavellian nature of the US ruling circles and strongly condemning the heinous crimes of the US imperialists against the Vietnamese, Cambodian and Lao peoples, President Huynh Tan Phat concluded:

"The US imperialists have not only met with bitter failure in Indochina but also faced mounting difficulties right in their country. With their unshakeable will and the sympathy and support of the peace-and justice-loving people the world over including progressive Americans, the three Indochinese peoples' righteous effort will surely be crowned with victory."

After him many delegates took the floor, voicing determination to contribute an active part to the common cause, and their absolute confidence in the Indochinese peoples' certain triumph over the US imperialists and their hirelings.

The meeting then unanimously passed an appeal calling on the army and people all over South Viet Nam to strengthen solidarity with the Cambodian and Lao brother peoples and to perseveringly step up the war of resistance against the US aggressors and for national salvation till complete victory.

Despite their heavy military reverses and universal opposition, the obdurate, bellicose and machiavellian nature of Nixon and the Saigon quislings has remained unchanged. In South Viet Nam, they have been ferverishly carrying on their "pacification" plan and the US aggressors continue to retain the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique as a tool to realize "Vietnamization," prolong and widen the war. They have repeatedly been resorting to war acts against the DRVN, and keep intensifying the aggressive war in Cambodia and Laos. In a word, Nixon and the Saigon regime keep nurturing the illusion of using fire and sword to quench the Indochinese peoples' will against aggression and for independence and freedom.

In face of the stubborn aggressive design of Nixon and his followers, the Indochinese peoples have no other alternative than to steadfastly step up their just resistance war till total victory. The unswerving militant position of the Indochinese peoples is as follows:

– As the US is the aggressor, it must put an end to its aggression by withdrawing immediately and unconditionally all its troops from South Viet Nam, and let the South Vietnamese people decide their internal affairs by themselves without foreign interference as made clear by the ten-point overall solution and the eight-point elaboration of the PRG of the RSVN.

– As the US has extended the aggressive war to Cambodia and Laos, it must stop its aggression, respect Cambodia and Laos' independence and self-determination as required in the communiqué on August 23, 1970 of Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, and the five-point solution on March 6, 1970 of the Lao Patriotic Front Central Committee.

The US failure is more transparent than ever before. The entire South Vietnamese army and people once again pledge to follow up together with the Indochinese peoples the achievements of the past year, persistently keep up the resistance war against the US aggressors for national salvation, wipe out more US-puppet forces and war materials, frustrate their "pacification" and "Vietnamization," as a contribution to the shipwreck of the reactionary Nixon doctrine of using Indochinese against Indochinese, and Asian against Asians.

The demonstrators waving NFL flag on top of the Capitol Memorial Statue

President NGUYEN HUU THO's MESSAGES to the PCPJ and NPAC in the USA

President Nguyen Huu Tho of the Presidium of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation on April 25 sent messages to the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice and the National Peace Action Coalition in the United States, welcoming the current "Spring Offensive" of the American people.

The messages said:

"We are glad to learn that after 5 days of successive meetings and demonstrations by tens of thousands of Americans, on April 24 over a million people of various strata marched on Washington and San Francisco to take part in huge demonstrations against the US war of aggression in Viet Nam.

The South Vietnamese people warmly welcome your courageous struggle and regard them as a valuable support and encouragement to our struggle.

We are convinced that the "Spring Offensive" which is developing with such a mettle and with ever wider participation of the American people and is enjoying the ever broader support of the word's people will certainly record great success and lead to a stronger movement to compel Nixon to end immediately his war of aggression in Viet Nam and Indochina and repatriate immediately and unconditionally all US troops."

Welcome Meeting in Liberated Zone

THE South Viet Nam People's Committee for Solidarity with the American People held on April 29 a meeting to acclaim the current "1971 Spring Anti-War Offensive" in the US.

Present on the presidium were:

– Superior Thich Thien Hao, Presidium member of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation;

– Professor Ung Ngoc Ky, Secretariat member of the NFL Central Committee, and Vice-Minister to the Presidential Office of the Revolutionary Provisional Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam;

– Le Hieu Dang, Assistant Secretary-General of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces;

– Ho Thu, pharmacist, Central Committee member of the NFL, and President of the South Viet Nam People's Committee for Solidarity with the American People;

– Seminary Professor Joseph Marie Ho Hue Ba, Central Committee member of the NFL, and Vice-President of the South Viet Nam People's Committee for Solidarity with the American People;

– Nguyen Chi Phi, hero of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces;

– Mme Ma Thi Chu, Central Committee member of the South Viet Nam Liberation Women's Union, and member of the South Viet Nam People's Committee for Solidarity with the American People;

– Nguyen Thi Chau, member of the South Viet Nam Liberation Students' Union;

– Tran Trung Kien, representative of the South Viet Nam Liberation Federation of Trade-Unions.

The rally was also attended by members of the South Viet Nam People's Committee for Solidarity with the American People, the South Viet Nam Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee, the South Viet Nam Peace Committee, representatives of intellectuals, religious communities, nationalities, political parties, liberation associations affiliated to the NFL and people in the liberated areas.

Speaking on this occasion, Seminary Professor Joseph Marie Ho Hue Ba said:

"We fully approve and support the 'Spring Offensive' by US organizations, and people of various strata, as a splendid coordinated action for the Vietnamese and American peoples' common interests, as the most effective and vigorous encouragement to our patriotic and just struggle, and a major contribution to the common cause for peace, independence, democracy and social progress.

"The South Vietnamese people earnestly love peace, a genuine peace in independence and freedom and feel no enmity for the American people. But in face of the frenzied and bellicose schemes and acts of Nixon and his followers, we pledge to side with the people throughout the country and the fraternal Cambodian and Lao peoples in persistently stepping up the resistance war until the complete defeat of the US aggressive war so as to realize an independent, democratic, peaceful and properous South Viet Nam and achieve the peaceful reunification of the country. It is the unshakeable purpose of our entire people and at the same time our own way of effectively and firmly backing the movement for peace and democracy in the US."

Taking the floor next, Nguyen Thi Chau, Tran Trung Kien and Mme Ma Thi Chu, representing respectively the South Viet Nam Liberation Students' Union, the Liberation Federation of Trade-Unions, and the Liberation Women's Union, warmly hailed the American people's current protest which enjoyed the broad and active participation of American youths, workers and women.

The gathering then passed a resolution which said:

– We heartily welcome the American people's Spring drive, especially the huge demonstration on April 24 and the "National Moratorium Day" on May 5. We fully support the American people's effort for peace and democracy, against racial discrimination and repression, and for social welfare. We resolutely protest against the Nixon administration attempts to suppress and undermine it.

– We insist that the Nixon administration end its aggressive war in Indochina, respect the Indochinese peoples' fundamental national rights, first of all withdraw all American and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, dump the bellicose and rotten Thieu-Ky-Khiem trio and let the Vietnamese people settle their own affairs by themselves.

– We acclaim the South Viet Nam PLAF Command on April 26, 1971 order on behaviour toward anti-war GIs. We hail the latter's actions and readily provide them shelter and help to extricate themselves from their plight as food for powder in South Viet Nam.

– We pledge to stand by the side of our fellow-countrymen throughout the country and the fraternal Cambodian and Lao peoples to foil Nixon's "Vietnamization" aimed at prolonging and widening the war. We shall fight on till the Yanks quit and the quislings topple, South Viet Nam is liberated, the North is made secure, and a peaceful, independent, democratic, unified and properous South Viet Nam is achieved.

Mass Organizations' Greetings

THE **South Viet Nam Committee for Solidarity with the American People** *has sent an open letter to the American people, warmly hailing the 1971 Spring Offensive in the United States.*

"The movement in the US against the Viet Nam aggressive war," the letter said, "has for the past few years been vigorously mounting. It has won the approval and support of a major part of the American people and peoples in many countries of the world and applied strong pressure upon the Nixon administration. It has been a vigorous encouragement for our patriotic and just struggle, and at the same time an active contribution to the common cause for peace, independence, democracy and social progress."

After denouncing Nixon's obdurate scheme to prolong the aggressive war against the three Indochinese countries, and recalling the position of the NFL, the PRG of the RSVN and the South Vietnamese people regarding the settlement of the Viet Nam problem at present, the letter said:

"To bring home all American troops as soon as possible, let down the Thieu-Ky-Khiem puppet administration and end all the US aggressive war schemes and acts in Indochina are pressing demands of the Vietnamese, Cambodian and Lao peoples and of the American and world peoples as well. Failure by the Nixon administration to strictly meet such wishes will only mire down the US ever deeper in the Viet Nam and Indochina war swamp, bring upon it ever heavier setbacks on all the battlefields, and further aggravate economic and social difficulties in the US.

"The South Vietnamese people ardently love peace and feel no enmity for the American people. But for independence and freedom, together with their fellow-countrymen in the whole country, they are determined to side with the Cambodian and Lao brother peoples in persistently pushing up the fight till complete defeat of the aggressive war of the Nixon administration, thereby contributing to the defence of peace in Viet Nam and Indochina.

"The singleness of purpose of the entire Vietnamese people is unshakeable. The American people's anti-war movement now as in the past and the present Spring Offensive will be valuable contributions to the peace in Viet Nam and Indochina and to the achievement of the American people's urgent demands.

"With their most sincere and friendly feelings, the South Vietnamese people wish your drive splendid successes."

* *On April 24, 1971, Pharmacist* **Ho Thu**, *President of the South Viet Nam Committee for Solidarity with the American People, sent a message to the National Peace Action Coalition and the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice in the US, hailing the American people's 1971 Spring Anti-War Drive.*

He extolled the American people's solidarity and persistent militancy as an inestimable inspiration to the common cause for peace, independence and social progess.

* *On April 25, 1971 the* **Popular Front for the Fight for Peace** *and the* **Movement of Women for the Right to Live** *in Saigon have sent messages to the Viet Nam Veterans Against War, and other peace organizations in the United States, voicing approval and support for the current drive of the "1971 Spring Offensive."*

The message of the Popular Front for the Fight for Peace said: "We welcome your action for the withdrawal of American troops from South Viet Nam."

That of Mme Ngo Ba Thanh, President of the Movement of Women for the Right to Live read: "We believe in the American and Vietnamese peoples' ultimate victory in their battle for peace and freedom in independence. We are joining hands in an effort against President Nixon's prosecution of the war to imperialists' interests."

The Saigon paper Tin Sang *(Morning News) carried on April 26 an article by a Saigon deputy hailing the American people's anti-war drive. "The effervescence in recent days of millions of people throughout the United States is aimed at an immediate end to the criminal aggressive war against Viet Nam," the MP wrote. The article also denounced the US quislings' repression of the SVN people's movement and ban on the SVN urban population's expression of their aspiration for peace. "The US military machine," it went on, "has forced on our people (in the enemy-temporarily held area—Ed.) a ruling clique which boasts of objectives completely different from its claimed slogans of 'peace and freedom'.*

April 24 in San Francisco the demonstrators marched to Golden Gate Park where the anti-war big rally was to take place

ANTI-WAR SPRING OFFENSIVE IN THE USA WARMLY HAILED BY THE RSVN

APRIL 1971

PLAF widespread onsets in the three strategic areas

In the South Viet Nam mountain areas, last month was marked by PLAF many-day actions on relief forces sent to the High Plateaus, repeated strikes at key positions in Western Tri-Thien and surprise attacks on the defence networks of Highways 22 and 13 in Eastern Nam Bo. In the first half of April, over 1,600 American and Saigon soldiers were knocked out north of Kontum (Tay Nguyen); at Ta Luong, 25km southwest of Hue, 1 Saigon company and 100 GIs were killed; Ka Tum (Eastern Nam Bo), 120 km northwest of Saigon, came under fire during the first 5 days of April with 3 underground ammunition dumps with 2,380 cubic metres of explosive destroyed on the night of April 5. Around Height 1,001 the PLAF beat off 4 attempts by forces of the 2nd Corps to relieve gun emplacement No 6 besieged since early April. According to incomplete figures, up to April 16, 3 Saigon battalions with many US officers and advisors were written off there, 3 other ones badly mauled, nearly 50 aircraft, most of them helicopters, shot down. On April 9, *AP* reported that *gun emplacement No 6 had borne the brunt of the PLAF offensive when, according to responsible sources, 1 battalion of the Saigon 42th Regiment had been wiped out and another Saigon battalion had lost 80 per cent of its strength.* It was a severe reverse following the bitter fiasco of Operation "Lam Son 719" in Laos.

Taking advantage of the terrain in the hills, the PLAF encircled adverse positions, ambushed convoys, intercepted relief columns, causing important losses in manpower and material, particularly in helicopters and tanks. Following the attacks in North Kontum and on the Highway 18 defence network, those near the Phu Nhon district capital (Dalac), southwest of Hue, lasted several days and proved very effective.

In the plains, right in early April, guerillas mounted violent waves of assaults on enemy posts in key pacification regions. In Binh Dinh (Central Trung Bo), nearly 10 posts fell or were abandoned during the first week of the month. In the periphery of Tra Vinh city (in the Mekong Delta), after a night encirclement by guerillas and local forces, 5 posts had to withdraw. Such an important strong point as Nui Dau (Quang Ngai) was razed down, resulting in one Saigon infantry-artillery battalion wiped out. Regional Liberation armed forces hang on to strategic axes, blowing up military convoys on Highways 19 and 21 (High Plateaus), Highway 22 (Eastern Nam Bo), Highway 14 (Mekong Delta). In the Central Trung Bo theatre alone, 80 military vehicles were destroyed in a week by Regional Liberation armed forces. The enemy lost aircraft everywhere, dozens of ships on the Saigon and Mekong Rivers or in ports.

Helped by local armed forces, the population in enemy-controlled areas shattered chunks of the puppet administration, punished thugs and freed themselves. The people's movement surged not only all over the Mekong Delta but also in High Plateaus and the plains of Central Trung Bo.

PLAF infantry and artillery raids were directed in April against big rear bases and logistic centres, inflicting serious US-Saigon casualties and material losses. 2 daring coups were staged against officer-training camps at Tan Hiep (My Tho) and Lam Son (Khanh Hoa), which has worsened the cadre shortage of the Saigon army.

At Lam Son alone, over 500 coaching or student officers were wiped out.

On the night of April 4, during a night onslaught of a few hours against the An Khe US base, the PLAF made short work of 34 military vehicles. In the first week of the month, they burnt 12 petrol dumps in Central Trung Bo. In a series of simultaneous operations on Da nang, Cam Ranh, Dakto, Hoi An, Qui Nhon, many US-Saigon bases were shelled. The enemy acknowledged that at Qui Nhon, a depot of 700 tons of bombs and a storage of 150,000 gallons of fuel for jets had been blotted out. PLAF artillery regularly pounded such US and allied CP's as that of the US Engineering Brigade at Hau Nghia, 40 km northeast of Saigon, the CP of the 5th Saigon division, the CP of the South Korean "White Horse" Division...

Guerilla warfare was carried on in the heart of **towns and big cities.** In Da Nang, self-defence units launched dozens of attacks in the 2nd and 3rd districts, putting out of action 240 enemy troops including US and Saigon officers. Those of Qui Nhon Port damaged a cargo of 15,000 tons and blew up an ammunition dump.

As a result of PLAF widespread and punishing offensives in three strategic areas, April was a very bad month for the enemy in the current dry season.

Firing back at the enemy from captured tank

IN OUR LIBERATED ZONE

* Of late, the Education and Youth Ministry of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam has convened a conference to review the 1969-1970 educational work.

Present were the Minister and Vice-Minister, the Educational Department of the South Viet Nam NFL, the South Viet Nam Patriotic Teachers' Association, educators' delegations from Saigon-Cholon and various localities in South Viet Nam.

The general report highlighted the following achievements :

In the past two years, apart from fighting against the "pacification" program, the teachers and educational workers have kept in close touch with the inhabitants and given the latter, their children and the cadres an education adapted to the local condition. They have set good examples in their task.

The conference unanimously agreed with the orientation, tasks and methods put forth for 1971 by the Education and Youth Ministry, namely: "To step up educational activities in the towns and countryside, in the deltas as well as the hilly regions, with a view to meeting the ever-growing educational needs of the people; all activities of the education branch must help build and consolidate the liberated areas..."

* In February 1971, various organs of the NFL Central Committee and the PRG of the RSVN met to sum up the complementary education movement and work out a plan and measures to step it up among civil servants in 1971.

* Despite the fierceness of the "pacification" raids in the U Minh area (Rach Gia, Ca Mau), the West Nam Bo song and dance ensembles and film-projecting teams have given many theatrical performances and film shows for the local population, guerillas and Liberation fighters. These entertainments were vivid illustrations of the combativeness and production activity of the U Minh people.

* The exhibition of paintings and sketches by the artists Ai Nhi and Ha Thanh was a success. The pictures of landscapes, the majestic Truong Son Range, the Mekong Delta, the activities of various organs and army units of the NFL and PRG, of the provincial committees commanded the attention of a large crowd. They reflected the various facets of life and the fighting of the South Vietnamese people and at the same time denounced the atrocities of the US and quislings in the U Minh area.

* The PRG of the RSVN has recently awarded 26 Liberation medals, first, second and third classes to the units and individuals who distinguished themselves in combat and production in Kien Phong province in 1970.

INCURABLE DISEASES OF THE SAIGON ARMY

SINCE February this year, mass desertions and disintegration, cases of non-compliance with orders to go and fight in Cambodia and Laos, anti-war and anti-draft drives and mutinies have occurred in virtually all units stationed in four Saigon tactical areas. The situation was particularly serious in the first area where the US and puppet command mustered a big troop-strength for the recent invasion of Southern Laos.

Right after their arrival at Khe Sanh and on Highway 9, officers and men of the 1st Infantry Division and of the Airborne, Ranger and Marine units started wrangling with American GIs and wounded themselves in one way or another to avoid being sent to die in Laos. Over 1,000, among whom about 100 officers, of Marine Brigades A and B disobeyed orders to enter into Laos; their panic-stricken commanders had to confine them in their quarters. On February 3, a number of officers and soldiers of Battalion 3, Regiment 4, at Quang Ngai shot dead their commander — a major — and two other officers when the three forced them to move across the border. 250 had afterwards left their battalion.

The wiping out of Ranger Battalion 39 in its own fortifications on Height 500 greatly alarmed Saigon troops. Rangers, who include ruffians and hooligans, form Saigon's most aggressive units supported and trained for long years by the Americans. Not less demoralizing was the sight of thousands of wounded soldiers and of invaders' corpses brought back from the Highway 9 front to Hue, Quang Tri, Dong Ha, Da Nang, etc. Refusal of marching orders in Laos, clashes between airborn troops and MPs and firing at the latter by the former, were witnessed in the very staging bases of Laos Operation. To support the protesting puppet troops, members of hundreds of their families from provincial and district towns irrupted into public offices and barracks to denounce US - puppet crimes and claim the return of their husbands, sons or brothers.

Protests against the war, against "pacification" raids and the Cambodia and Laos campaigns have rapidly spread among the puppet armed forces at Vung Tau, in Binh Dinh Quang Duc, Tuyen Duc, Lam Dong, Binh Thuan, Bien Hoa, Tay Ninh, Long An and the Mekong Delta provinces.

Aside from collective anti-war actions against troop concentrations and impress, armymen in many places rebelled against the regime and defected to the NFL. According to preliminary reports, *over the first three months of the current year, some* 15,000 *officers and soldiers have gone over to the revolution's side. Another* 25,000, *half of which number belonging to regular units, disobeyed combat orders and inflicted wounds on themselves not to have to take part in the fighting.* In the same period, patriotic elements in Central Trung Bo staged 69 mutinies, responsible for more than 300 casualties (most of whom wicked officers and commanders at various levels) and the destruction of a considerable quantity of war materials.

Agitation work carried out by the population among enemy agents and armed forces has registered steady progress. When the adversary was bogged down in Southern Laos, 15,000 people of Quang Da marched in large groups to Da Nang hospitals and the operation HQ at Dong Ha to press for the return of their relatives. Members of the troops' families participated in this action.

In March, over 10,000 people in provincial cities, townships and the surrounding areas in Western Nam Bo, mounted fierce drives against impress and troop concentrations. They penetrated into staging bases, military subsectors and garrisons and asked for compensations for the death of their relatives in "pacification" raids in the U Minh jungle, and in Cambodia.

Also in Western Nam Bo, well over 100 drives against U Minh "pacification" were put up by 3,000 adverse troops including commanding officers of company and higher levels. They were backed by the local population and members of their families.

To cope with the above situation, the Americans and the Saigon regime have been resorting to drastic reprisals coupled with corruption and demagogic moves. But in face of the damaging offensives of the liberation forces throughout Indochina and the people's continuous uprisings, no manœuvres could stave off more and graver anti-war drives, desertions and disintegration of the Saigon armed forces. For that is the sole way for patriotic elements among them to save their own lives, to avoid sufferings for their families and do their bits in their people's resistance to US aggression, for national salvation.

THE PALESTINIAN ARABS JUST AND SURELY VICTORIOUS CAUSE

THE US imperialists often claim that the Middle East problem—*the dominant issue being the battle of the Palestinian people to liberate their country and conquer their fundamental national rights* — is but a wrangle between the Arabs and the Jews. Taking it as the permanent tension in the Middle East, they have put forward a series of "peace plans" and made a show of their "goodwill for peace." But what is the truth behind all those moves?

I. THE REAL CAUSES: US NEO-COLONIALISM AND JEWISH EXPANSIONISM

In *The Origins of the Near East Conflict* (1), Paul and Henriette Jacot have rightly assessed that the United States which defrays the Allied war effort, takes an interest in all the areas where the old colonial powers are losing control at the hand of the national liberation movement (Korea, Indochina, Greece, etc.). Hence its interest in the Middle East and the Arab oil. In 1944, American petroleum companies already controlled a bigger reserve than the British in this region. The United States was particularly interested in Palestine and set up an investigation committee on the Palestinian problem together with Britain in 1946. Roosevelt and Truman's stands spelled out US policy to act as eventual mainstay of the State of Israel.

Since then, US presidents have joined hands with the Israeli reactionary administration, using it as a tool against the national liberation movement in the Middle East in order to protect their oil interests and achieve their aggressive schemes in this area. With President Nixon, this policy is even more apparent and crafty. Since late 1969, after the visits of Israel's Prime Minister Golda Meir and Foreign Minister Abba Eban, the Nixon Administration has supplied her with more money and weapons, including missiles and planes. Moreover, the United States has allowed its citizens to serve as mercenaries for Israel, and used many wicked tricks to divide the Arab countries, subvert the progressive Arab governments and sabotage the revolutionary movements of the Palestinian and Arab peoples. All the US "peace plans" for the Middle East have been aimed at helping the Israeli aggressors perpetuate their occupation of Palestine and other Arab lands. About the latest "peace plan" named after US State Secretary Rogers, a correspondent of *Africasia* review, Eqlal Ahmad has pointed out after a careful study in Washington that "this plan is only meant to sow confusion among the Arabs and provide Washington with some advantages before it is shelved on one or another pretext" (2). Israel also enjoys US encouragement and moral support. In face of the indignation against Israel's onslaught on Lebanon in May 1970, US State Secretary Rogers brazenly declared that the United States understood Israel's reprisal. Lately, the Nixon Administration made it clear that it would not sit idle and let the balance of forces tip against Israel.

What is most perfidious is that, together with the "Rogers plan" the US imperialists have resorted to the Jordan reactionary administration as their shock force to stamp out the Palestine resistance movement as indicated the September 1970 event. After that, they have poured thousands of tons of weapons and munitions into Jordan to make up for the losses suffered by their stooges. Since then, on US orders, the latter have set about attacking Palestinian refugees' camps and guerilla bases in Jordan, killing and wounding thousands of innocent people.

With encouragement and help from the imperialists—American in the first place—the Israeli reactionary administration has made every effort to realize its expansionist aims. From 14,200 sq. km granted in 1947 on Palestinian territory (that is 600 per cent of former Palestine while the Jews numbered only 6 per cent of the population), it extended them to 20,700 sq. km. in 1949, then to 102,400 sq. km. in 1967, occupying the whole of Palestine and parts of other Arab countries. The lands thus conquered have brought Israel to the Western side of the Jordan River, to the Golan heights in the northeast, and beyond Gaza with the entire Sinai peninsula in the south.

In the occupied area, the Israeli aggressors enforce most ruthless terror, repression and exploitation. They forbid the population to keep and use their property or contact each other, restrict the propagation of news and ideas, and requisition the property of all those suspected of having caused an explosion, a gunshot ...

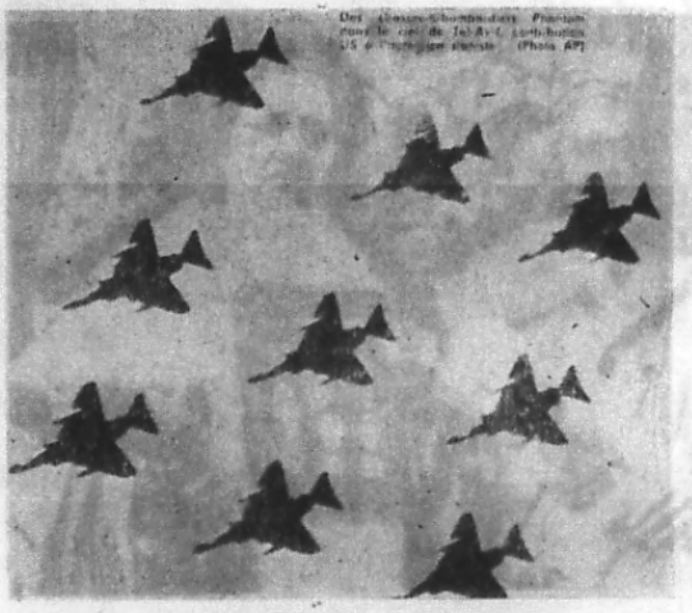
The laws they make only apply to the Arab-dominated areas and to the Arabs exclusively.

Based on these fascist laws, they go all out killing and plundering Palestinian Arabs. Mass slaughters of innocent people, including women and children like that of My Lai by the US imperialists in South Viet Nam—have become common occurrences against the Palestinian Arabs, such as the Deir Yaesin case, near Jerusalem.

Now they are still obdurately clinging to the Arab territories they have illegally occupied, including Palestine. They have also threatened to invade the Arab countries if the latter let the Palestinian guerillas set up staging bases in their land to carry out the liberation of Palestine. In fact, they have ceaselessly attacked the Arab countries, creating a permanent tension in the Middle East.

(To be continued)

DAI LIEN



US aircraft in the Middle-East backing Israel aggression against the Arab countries

(1) Struggle for peace *monthly—November* 1970.

(2) Africasia *review, October* 26, 1970.

Second drive of the Spring Offensive

THE Spring Offensive in the United States has swung into its second drive since April 25.

In Washington, demonstrations unfolded from April 26 to May 1 in spite of drastic persecution and the arrest of 700 people. The protesters, pitching tents on the Potomac riverside, streamed toward the Capitol and the Pentagon. They broke into the Congress meeting rooms and encircled the army induction centre. Many sit-ins occurred in front of Republican Senator Hughes Scott's office throughout the night of April 26, of the draft centre near the White House on the 27th and 28th, and of the HEW Department. On May 1 afternoon, another sit-in blocked the entrances to the Justice Department one day after the 20,000-strong parade around Lincoln Memorial.

On April 24, 33 leading members of 27 religious organizations launched an appeal urging their 86 million believers to pray for peace and hold a hunger strike in protest against the US criminal war in Indochina. They also called on all American churches to toll bells for an hour in memory of GIs who had pointlessly died in Indochina and as an expression of their grief over the continuation of Nixon's bloody war.

On April 30, under heavy rain 1,000 people, mostly lawyers, attended a gathering at Manhattan to voice protest against the US President's war policy. Among the participants were the Mayor of New York Lindsay and Congressman McCloskey.

On April 25, 1,000 young Americans in New Jersey back from a demonstration in Washington the previous day, produced a 40-km traffic jam.

On May 1, workers and other labouring people in New York staged meetings and parades for an end to the Viet Nam war, against unemployment and repression. The same day, TU organizations in Hawaii made public a joint declaration demanding the termination of the war in Viet Nam and backing a resolution passed by the Senator of this State to the same effect and for the repatriation of all American troops before 1972.

Meanwhile, Viet Nam veterans testified before the Congress Committee for Investigation on US war Crimes. Most of them were officers of varied units such as Major Livingston, medic of the 11th Armoured Regiment. Their disclosures aroused indignation among Congressmen. One of these, Ronald Dellums, stated that the testimonies called for a formal investigation of war crimes in Viet Nam.

From many parts of the country, crowds converged on Washington in preparation for the climax of the drive. On May 2 at least 50,000 people, mostly youths assembled in a park. 20,000 gathered on the bank of the Potomac, ready for a riposte against reprisals by 7,000 policemen and security agents poised on the other bank of the river.

Also in Washington, on May 1 evening 50,000 demonstrators from various parts of the US staged a festival at the "peace camp" on the Potomac banks as a prelude to their action for blocking the 21 main arteries of the capital city, and to workers and students' strikes.

By dawn the next day, armed-to-the-teeth police ransacked the "peace camp" and made a hundred or so arrests.

According to Western agencies, this savage policy was unable to beat back the peace and progressive forces which, on May 3, launched "direct actions" for an immediate pull-out of all US troops and an early end to the costly and bloody Indochina war.

A score Viet Nam veterans hurled packages of cow dung on the Pentagon esplanade in protest against the "dirty war."

At day break, paraders marched in groups on the main streets toward the main bridge and the entrances to the city that they wanted to seal off. *AP* said that by lying on the causeway, young people virtually paralysed the traffic in the periphery from Georgetown to the US capital.

At the same time, crowds of other war dissenters invaded Connecticut Avenue right in the heart of Washington. Holding high the flag of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, they chanted: "Ho, Ho, Ho Chi Minh," "the NFL will win!"

According to *AFP*, about 700 paraders led by the well-known Dr Benjamin Spock obstructed a bridge over the Potomac.

Western agencies said that Nixon had given special instructions to Washington's Police Chief Jerry Wilson to mete out severe repression.

US troops took up positions on all bridges over the Potomac. Armed with rifles and machineguns, they had been brought in from Virginia State. 2,000 men of the Federal forces were specially assigned to the defence of the White House.

Charges were made at dawn by 4,000 paratroopers and marines belonging to the Potomac shock forces under General John Hay. Police and security forces also took part in the action. Another 10,000 men stood by in emergency, while the Defense and Justice Departments were heavily guarded by infantry and marine units.

The deployment of such a tremendous force to curb peace demonstrations further betrayed Nixon's ruthlessness. *AFP* reported that the police employed tear gas to disperse the dissenters.

Washington's police chief admitted that his men had rounded up 7,000 demonstrators and injured about 100 on May 3. Western agencies described the number of arrests made as an all-time record. The detainees were penned up in a stadium for lack of room in Washington's jails. Among them were Dr Benjamin Spock, Rennie Davis and Hoffenan, leaders and organizers of this anti-war drive.

In Los Angeles, 2,600 people attended a requiem on May Day for the victims of US aggression in Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos, as well as of the Americans killed during terror raids undertaken by the US Command. Simultaneously, another 1,000 marched in the city's streets in protest of the US criminal war in Indochina.

On May 2, over 1,000 American troops held a meeting in which the cinema artiste Jane Fonda condemned the US unjust war in Viet Nam and Indochina. Several GIs and Cesarchavez, leader of the farm workers' TU, raised their accusing voices. A slogan over the tribune read: Set free the 40,000 troops at Fort Lewis.

At Kent, Ohio State, services were held in succession from May 1 to 4 by university students and progressives for the souls of the four students killed by the police and troops last year in a students' demonstration against Nixon's Cambodia adventure.

Parallel to actions in Washington, anti-war forces carried out a large-scale campaign for the signing of a "People's Peace Treaty." Newspaper chief-editors and students of large universities have endorsed the said treaty and have been circulating it on for fresh signatures. Dozens of thousands of women in 35 states have written their names and under the text of the treaty urged their Congressmen to do the same and put the question in the agenda of Congress.

Among the first signatories are representatives of peace and democratic organizations, of religious communities and Trade Unions, Congressmen, intellectuals, women and young men: Dr Albernathy, President of the Southern Christian Directors' Council, Bella Abzug, a House member, Pastor Berrigan, Professor Noam Chomsky, Mr Dellinger, representative of the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice, Pastor Dick Fernandez, lawyer Richard Falk, film star Jane Fonda, Senator Charles E. Goodell, black comedian Dick Gregory, the widow of the late Dr Luther King, Mr Livingston, Chairman of the Trade Unions of district 65, New York, Senator McCarthy, Mr Stewart Meacham, a quaker, Dr Linus Pauling, a world famous scientist, George Baile, Chairman of the National Welfare Rights Organization, Dr Benjamin Spock, Mr Bobby Seale, Chairman of the Black Panthers Party, etc.

As is put down in the 'People's Peace Treaty,' the two anti-war drives of the Spring Offensive in the United States have shown that: "The war is carried out in the name of the people of the United States, but without our consent. It destroys the land and the people of Viet Nam. It drains America of her resources, her youth and her honor."